

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

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CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

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The South Carolina Surprise.

They do things in rather a breezy fashion in South Carolina. "You are no democrat," says Mr. Tillman to Mr. McLaughlin. "You are no democrat," retorts Mr. McLaughlin upon Mr. Tillman. "Do you dare me to resist?" demands Mr. Tillman of Mr. McLaughlin. "I do," replies Mr. McLaughlin. "I will if you will," retorts Mr. Tillman. "Agreed," replies Mr. McLaughlin. This is reduced to writing, and two United States senators are laid upon the table of the governor of the state.

A proceeding so unusual and so high-handed is not to be praised. It makes of high office a sort of personal asset. Those places had been bestowed only after the election of the state had been consulted, and the significance of the selection only appreciated. But without consultation with anybody, and upon the spot of a moment made exciting by partisan wrangling between them, the two incumbents throw up their commissions and force a campaign upon the state a whole year in advance of the regular order. In many states such an act would be fatal to the aspirations of its authors. But would be barred by it. But in South Carolina personal politics is popular, and maybe the very audacity of these two men will grapple their friends to them with stronger bonds than ever.

A campaign of great bitterness, even for South Carolina, is assured. Mr. Tillman's methods are well known, and have been carefully cultivated. His uncompromising aggressiveness and his knout of a tongue have served him to advantage in the past, and there are reasons to believe that he will employ them in this race for all that may be won. Mr. McLaughlin is reported as convinced of this, and as determined not to evade any of the responsibilities it may place upon him. He is right about that. He should prefer, and probably does, a discussion of the issues involved, and to the fullest extent possible should keep them calmly and tolerantly at the front; but to whatsoever point it may be necessary for him to go in order to meet Mr. Tillman on the ground of his own choosing, common sense and self-respect dictate that course. He could not afford to listen unmoved to personalities leveled at him from the platform from which he, too, is speaking.

To what extent the contest may turn upon personalities, leaving the real issues obscured and in the background, time alone can determine. The issues are of the first importance, and Mr. McLaughlin presents them in a way that should command the attention of every elector in the state. He wants to be lifted and to see his people lifted out of the mists of mere prejudice and partisan hatreds. If South Carolina has no stake in sound money and expansion no state in the Union has.

A Long Peace Predicted.

The very interesting interview with ex-Senator Mitchell of Wisconsin, printed in Saturday's Star, in which that gentleman discussed European affairs as the result of two years of observation abroad, concluded with the following question and answer:

"Are the conditions such as to threaten trouble between this country and Germany?"

"I do not think that is at all likely. There will not be another war involving this country for many years. I will never see another war involving this country, to which the United States is a party."

Mr. Mitchell is sixty years old, and a man of vigor. He ought to reach the four-score mark, and everybody who knows him will wish that good fortune for him. What he predicts for us, therefore, is at least twenty years of peace. Are his figures too high? Is he too optimistic?

All croakings of anti-imperialists to the contrary notwithstanding, there is a war spirit in the United States. The people have not lost their heads. Their easily achieved success in the war with Spain did not give them their first feeling of confidence in themselves. They expected success, and as soon as the war was over they settled down again to their everyday affairs. They are as busy as bees today, and, as the phrase is, "at peace with all the world." War is not within the scope of their calculations anywhere.

The situation elsewhere would seem to be equally promising for a long peace. The powers are withdrawing from China in good shape, and in good temper toward one another. Whatever remains of the "yellow peril" need not be a menace to any one power, and certainly is not beyond the ability of all the powers acting together to manage. If there should be a fresh outbreak in China against foreigners, the powers will have only to apply again the policy they have just used. There is nothing in the South African affair threatening the peace of the world. Great Britain is still assured of freedom from outside interference, and is surely, if a little slowly, establishing her complete supremacy in that quarter.

Why then should not only the American people but other peoples be entering on a period of protracted peace? The recent taste of blood has been general, but far from palatable. Everybody has fought with a good good will, as everybody should when fighting is absolutely necessary, but the mere "joy of battle" has nowhere been manifested. And as the fighting everywhere is about over, and the world has a good deal of business of other kinds to transact, why should we not indulge the hope that the world, for years to come, will devote itself to the arts of peace, never before in its history so attractive or so far advanced? May we not with every reason, indeed, hope that the very general preparedness for war will operate as a restraining force on nations which now know one another so very well?

Strict Transportation Laws Needed.

The trolley car accident near Albany emphasizes the necessity for some more stringent legislation in the states for the regulation of suburban electric railways. There is probably not a city or town of any size in the United States, certainly in the northern section, which is not provided with one or more single-track trolley lines. These lines, built as cheaply as possible, with infrequent switches, annually cause many deaths. Their employees are not, as a rule, highly trained or carefully selected men. Paid a comparatively low wage, often held under the strain of necessity to keep to their schedules, regardless of the safety of their charges, they take dangerous chances. The country trolley system

seems to have been developed along the line of the greatest risk. The demand for rapid transit has been met without adequate precaution to prevent the paying of a high price. Analysis of the accidents which occur with regularity on these lines discloses a variety of causes. Now it is a broken rail, now a defective switch, now a reckless motorman, now an indiscreet conductor, now a misunderstanding of orders and signals. In the latest case, which cost five lives at least, the cause was the motorman's belief that he could make a switch beyond the safe one in season to prevent an accident. He failed. Perhaps he alone was responsible for the disaster. In that case he paid for his blunder with his life. But the chance is that he was given such latitude by his employers that he was willing to take the risk. In that event the blame for the accident rests upon the management, where, in fact, it may be found to rest in most cases. The lack of effective inspection of the track and rolling stock and of a rigid system of regulation, the employment of incompetent men, and, above all, the maintenance of the single-track system, when all the conditions of modern transportation demand the double track, all these contribute to the year's death roll. The state legislatures in every direction are faced with the task of strengthening the laws which reach this condition.

Independence to Compete.

Mr. Thomas Lawson's decision to abide by the rules of the New York Yacht Club and enter his racer Independence in the trials at Newport under the name of a member of that organization is a most satisfactory result of the recent controversy on the subject. The principal object is to secure the fastest American yacht to compete with the Lipton boat in September, whether the defender be built in Bristol, Boston and elsewhere, whether owned by one man or another, or designed as a result of club or personal enterprise. It is unfortunate that the rules which have governed the international races heretofore have given rise to this unpleasant discussion, but there appears to have been no decided disinclination in the past upon the point of entry under the New York club's pennant and the cup has been successfully defended by Boston creations under the same conditions as those which Mr. Lawson now reluctantly accepts. It is natural that Mr. Lawson, having spent a large sum on Independence, should desire to race her under his own name and his own personal pennant. But the surrender of technical ownership to another in order to secure entry in the trial races will not in the least diminish the public understanding of the ownership or the personal credit for whatever victory may do. She will remain "Lawson's boat" to the majority of those who follow the affair, and if she should be chosen for the defense of the cup and should defeat Shamrock in the great match, the honor will belong to Lawson and his clever designer, Crowinshield. Now that the controversy has been thus happily settled, it is in order to praise the sportsmanlike conduct of Mr. Lawson in accepting conditions in order to secure a place for his craft and thereby add to the public interest in the trials and the subsequent races. It would have been unfortunate to find Independence barred by a technicality, thus causing her quality in comparison with Columbia or Constitution or Shamrock to remain unknown.

The Pekin Shooting.

There is no likelihood whatever of international misunderstanding arising as a result of the slight clash at Pekin between American and German soldiers. As the reports now run the incident was the result of the impatience and resentment of a German officer and subsequently of a German private at the exercise of established American military authority. The investigation now under way may show that the American sentinel acted too hastily in firing upon an intruder. Or possibly it will be found that there was no need of such radical action. In either of these cases the sentinel will presumably be punished and adequate regrets expressed. The only serious feature of the affair is that the clash resulted from ill-feeling between the American and German military forces, which has appeared in slight degree heretofore. Apparently, however, this spirit does not extend to the diplomatic representatives of the two nations. In view of the early withdrawal of the soldiers of both powers from Pekin, will soon be the arbiters of the relations between the two governments. Such little encounters are inevitable under the circumstances which have prevailed at Pekin for many months, and it is a marvel that there have not been more serious breaches of the peace, with soldiers of all nationalities crowding upon one another's heels, intruding upon one another's territory, and claiming special fields, claiming unusual privileges and ignoring the provost guard requirements in the internationally governed city. It is a triumph of tolerance and diplomacy that the period has passed in peace.

New Jersey is preparing to scatter all the mosquitoes from its territory and Pennsylvania is making arrangements to get rid of tramps. This looks like hard luck for the other states.

It is a shock to the poetic sense to note that King Edward had his latest photograph taken while wearing a pair of ordinary "pants" under an ermine robe.

It is now a matter of interest whether Mr. Pettigrew's newly acquired wealth will keep him close to business or leave him still more leisure to lecture.

The lambs are beginning to recover confidence and are no longer entering on a period of protracted peace. The recent taste of blood has been general, but far from palatable. Everybody has fought with a good good will, as everybody should when fighting is absolutely necessary, but the mere "joy of battle" has nowhere been manifested. And as the fighting everywhere is about over, and the world has a good deal of business of other kinds to transact, why should we not indulge the hope that the world, for years to come, will devote itself to the arts of peace, never before in its history so attractive or so far advanced? May we not with every reason, indeed, hope that the very general preparedness for war will operate as a restraining force on nations which now know one another so very well?

It looks as if the shirt-waists-for-men idea might be doomed to failure. Its advocates made the mistake of not inventing a game to go with it.

It is feared that when all the Duke of Manchester's debts are paid there will be no further reason for regarding him as remarkable.

General von Walderssee has discovered that it is difficult to find a dignified medium between conciliation and extermination.

Mr. Lawson is too genuinely anxious that his yacht shall have a chance to haggle overmuch about conditions.

Cuba is in danger of letting a disposition to talk it over cause the loss of valuable time.

Kidnaping Threats.

The kidnaping enterprise differentiates. First, in the recent case, came the Cuddy affair, in which a boy was actually stolen and his release sold for a large figure. Then occurred the disappearance of Willie McCormick, which stimulated the blackmailers to offer to furnish clues for cash and even to produce the child upon the payment of a ransom despite the fact that he had been drowned by accident and had never been stolen. Now are reported the New Jersey letters to certain wealthy men threatening to steal their children if they do not pay heavily to prevent it. These potential kidnapers are in all probability bluffing and have no intention to execute their threats. But they are nevertheless dangerous to society and should be hunted as ruthlessly as though they had actually stolen a child and were negotiating for its ransom. A blackmail letter is an abominable thing, and the law under any circumstances, there is no assuring the agony inflicted upon a parent by such a

threat, even though he may feel assured that the demand is a bluff. It should not be impossible to trace such criminals. Decoy letters have in the past served in even more delicate cases. A criminal of this sort, caught at his own game and given the limit of the law in punishment, might serve as a deterrent object lesson upon his ilk.

Andrew Carnegie says that his business now is giving. There are men who will be just as well pleased if he does not interfere with their plans by taking a vacation and making more money.

It gets difficult for the successful modern author to get time enough away from his law suits with publishers to produce manuscript.

Texas has its ups as well as its downs. It was not long after its fearful tidal-wave experience that the state struck oil.

No one seems to think of calling another peace conference at The Hague, although it is more needed now than ever.

The latest sea serpent was seen by a man named Drinkwater. This sounds like clever corroborative detail.

Having secured Mrs. Bonine's confession, the question now is what to do with it.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Misfortune.

"What is the matter, Tommy?" asked the mother of the small boy in tears.

"I'm lonesome. The other boys wouldn't play fair."

"What was the game?"

"We were playing United States Senate. I resigned and the other boys forgot to coax me back."

"De man dat's allus tellin' 'bout what he used to do or what he's gwine to do," Uncle Eben, "is usually was'n' in his time jes' at present."

Prudence.

"What made you jump into the midst of the fight?" inquired the friend. "You had nothing to do with the feud those men were trying to settle."

"That's perfectly true," answered Colonel Stillwell. "But I had to take sides one way or the other. I couldn't take chances on being an innocent by-stander."

A Way Out of It.

The man who dotes procrustean. Sometimes is not found worrying. He hires some chap of small estate and lets him do the worrying.

A Certificate.

"An election to office ought to be considered one of the highest gifts a community can bestow on a man."

"It is," answered Senator Sorghum. "It improves his standing immediately. Out my way it is regarded as a sure sign that a man has money or is going to get some."

A Simple Phenomenon.

How oft man wakes to find this earth a teeming place of sorrow.

Whipped grim today are giving birth To new worse tomorrow.

And man must watch the various ills That pass in grim procession.

His bosom with resentment thrills. He wears a pained expression.

The statesmen full of discontent. With subtle phrase that pleases; Physicians smile as they invent.

New names for old diseases. And yet these words are profound.

Of times beguile their brothers. About earth's emptiness are found.

Complaining like the others! A cloud is curtains o'er the sky.

The rainy fountain bubbles. And every friend who passes by.

Has naught to tell but troubles. Life's stream, which sunbeams once would kiss.

Seems now a sluggish river. The cause of it is simply this:

Man has a torpid liver.

Low Telephone Rate Act Upheld.

Telephone companies and users of telephones will be interested in a decision rendered by the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. The judgment of the lower court is reversed and an act of Congress requiring a reduction of rate from \$125 to \$50 for instruments attached to separate wires, with corresponding reductions for combination wires, is upheld as perfectly valid and within the legislative powers of that body, which, as readers know, is incidentally the legislature of the District of Columbia.

The company objected to the congressional regulation on several grounds. The rates imposed were declared to be unreasonable, low, ruinous and confiscatory in fact, and the act was also raised that the act impaired the obligation of contracts entered into by the company with sundry persons and corporations. The Court of Appeals considers each of the objections and finds no merit in any one of them.

It points out, in the first place, that the company holds a New York charter and is "foreign" to the District of Columbia, where it has transacted business without express permission or prior invitation. Congress has no control over the company and has attempted to annul or curtail its corporate privileges. As an "occupant at will" it can be expelled from the District at any time. If permitted to continue, Congress may impose any conditions it chooses.

Congress deprives the company of no right and impairs none of its contracts. It simply orders the company to do business here under a foreign charter without comply with our requirements. If the rates ordered by Congress are too low, the company is at liberty to quit the district. But, as a matter of fact, the evidence does not satisfy the court that the enforcement of the congressional rates will destroy the company's property or confiscate its whole profit.

It is clear that this decision has no bearing on telephone controversies which involve vested rights, contracts of property and alteration of contracts made with the authorities of the state or municipality in which the business is carried on. Totally different questions are raised by such cases.

Observance of Memorial Day.

A writer in The Washington Star makes an earnest plea for the proper observance of Memorial Day in the spirit that was originally intended. "You are to honor and dedicate to the memory of the heroic and patriotic men who gave their lives for the Union."

All of this the Truth Indorses most heartily. Memorial day should not be diverted from its solemn purpose by devoting it to games or frivolous amusement of any kind. It is a day sacred to the memory of the soldier dead, and as such should be observed in the spirit that called it into existence.

Fighting Over Estates.

Samuel Wood of Long Island, when he died some years ago, left a provision in his will for the establishment of a conservatory of music, and set aside several hundred thousands of dollars for that institution. It is now disclosed that extensive and prolonged litigation over the estate has consumed the greater part of the property, and that there is little prospect that the conservatory will ever be founded.

At some time in the future the people of this state may perhaps demand that the legislature shall take some action to diminish the excessive cost of legal proceedings in disputes over wills and estates. Rightful heirs are often ill treated and denied such a right, and the reasonable wishes of testators are sometimes ruthlessly nullified.

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